



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: June 25, 2020

Agenda Item: Surplus Sale of Special Lion Licenses

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Minutes

Background: Special mountain lion licenses are allocated through a drawing. To limit applications to those individuals most interested in hunting special lion license areas, special lion license applicants currently forfeit the opportunity to purchase a different lion license, even if unsuccessful in the drawing.

In February 2020, the commission adopted sex-specific licenses for certain districts within Region 1, requiring applicants to choose between a male or female license when applying. This new structure could potentially result in some special licenses going unallocated. Under existing regulations, these surplus special lion licenses could not be purchased by unsuccessful applicants.

FWP is proposing that the commission allow unsuccessful applicants for special lion licenses to purchase surplus special lion licenses if they are available. This proposal does not change existing regulations restricting a special lion license applicant's ability to purchase a general lion license.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The Region 1 sex-specific lion license proposal went through an extensive public comment period as part of the 2020-2021 biennial season-setting process this fall and winter. This proposal would adjust the rules for special lion license applicants in Regions 1 and 2 so that the unsuccessful applicants could purchase a surplus special lion license if available. Two public comments were received and both supported the proposal.

Alternatives and Analysis: If this proposal is not adopted, unsuccessful applicants will not be able to purchase any mountain lion license, even if surplus licenses are available. Another result could be that surplus special licenses may be left unsold.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: The department recommends that the commission allow unsuccessful applicants for special lion licenses to purchase a surplus special lion license if available. This will allow unsuccessful applicants a surplus option and potentially avoid lost opportunity and reduced management effectiveness associated with unsold licenses.

Proposed Motion: I move that the commission adopt as final the proposed change allowing unsuccessful special lion license applicants the ability to purchase a surplus special lion license as presented by the department.